

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 164632  
ORIGIN EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15  
ICA-11 /071 R

DRAFTED BY EA/K:FMISCH:LKD  
APPROVED BY EA/K:DBLAKEMORE  
EA/P:JCANNON

-----074538 282110Z /46

P 282032Z JUN 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 164632

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, SOPN, KS, US

SUBJECT: REPORTED CONFISCATION OF NBC TV NEWS FILM - PRESS  
GUIDANCE AND DEPARTMENT REPRESENTATION TO KOREAN  
EMBASSY

REF: SEOUL 5551

1. DEPARTMENT PREPARED FOLLOWING GUIDANCE FOR USE BY SPOKES-  
MAN AT JUNE 28 NOON BRIEFING:

QUOTE:

QUESTION: HAVE YOU ANY COMMENT ON THE REPORTED INCIDENT  
TUESDAY IN SEOUL IN WHICH FILM OF THE JUNE 26 STUDENT DE-  
MONSTRATION WAS CONFISCATED FROM AN NBC STAFFER?

ANSWER: WE REGRET THE DECISION OF KOREAN CUSTOMS AUTHORI-  
TIES TO PREVENT THE SHIPMENT OF THIS FILM OUT OF KOREA.  
SUCH INTERFERENCE WITH BONA FIDE NEWSGATHERING OPERATIONS IS  
OBVIOUSLY INCONSISTENT WITH OUR VIEWS ON PRESS FREEDOM. WE  
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ARE DISCUSSING THIS INCIDENT WITH KOREAN AUTHORITIES.

QUESTION: ARE YOU REGISTERING A FORMAL PROTEST WITH THE  
ROKG?

ANSWER: NOT IN TERMS OF A FORMAL NOTE; HOWEVER, AS I SAID,  
WE WILL BE DISCUSSING THIS WITH THE KOREANS.

QUESTION: WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO INSURE THAT SOMETHING LIKE THIS DOESN'T HAPPEN AGAIN?

ANSWER: WE WOULD, OF COURSE, HOPE THAT AS A RESULT OF OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH KOREAN AUTHORITIES, THEY WOULD AGREE THAT IT SHOULDN'T.

UNQUOTE

2. PRIOR TO BRIEFING ACTING KOREA COUNTRY DIRECTOR CALLED IN EMBASSY POLITICAL COUNSELLOR SHIN AND GAVE HIM COPY OF GUIDANCE, POINTING OUT THE POTENTIALLY ADVERSE EFFECT OF CONFISCATION ACTION. SHIN SAID THAT HE FELT THAT DEPARTMENT GUIDANCE MISSED SIGNIFICANT POINT THAT NBC STAFFER WAS KOREAN, NOT AMERICAN. DEPARTMENT OFFICER SAID THAT POINT AT ISSUE WAS INTERFERENCE WITH NEWS GATHERING FUNCTION AND THAT NATIONALITY OF PERSON INVOLVED WAS RELATIVELY INSIGNIFICANT.

3. NO QUESTIONS WERE ASKED ON SUBJECT AT BRIEFING. VANCE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FILMS, FOREIGN RELATIONS, TELEVISION BROADCASTING  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 28 jun 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**TAGS:** PGOV, SOPN, KS, US, NBC  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014